







CAESAR A. RODNEY



BUENOS AYRES, 1824









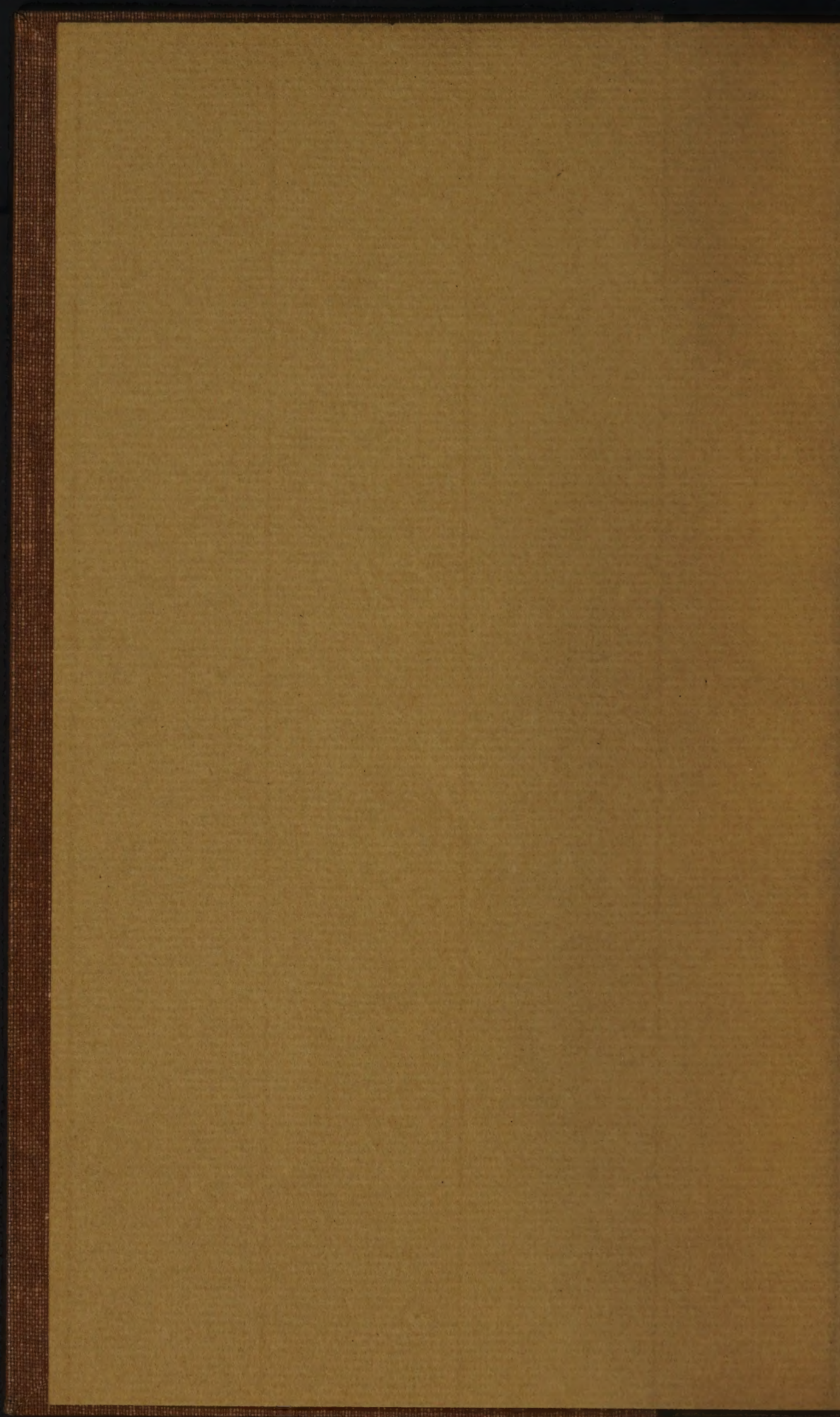


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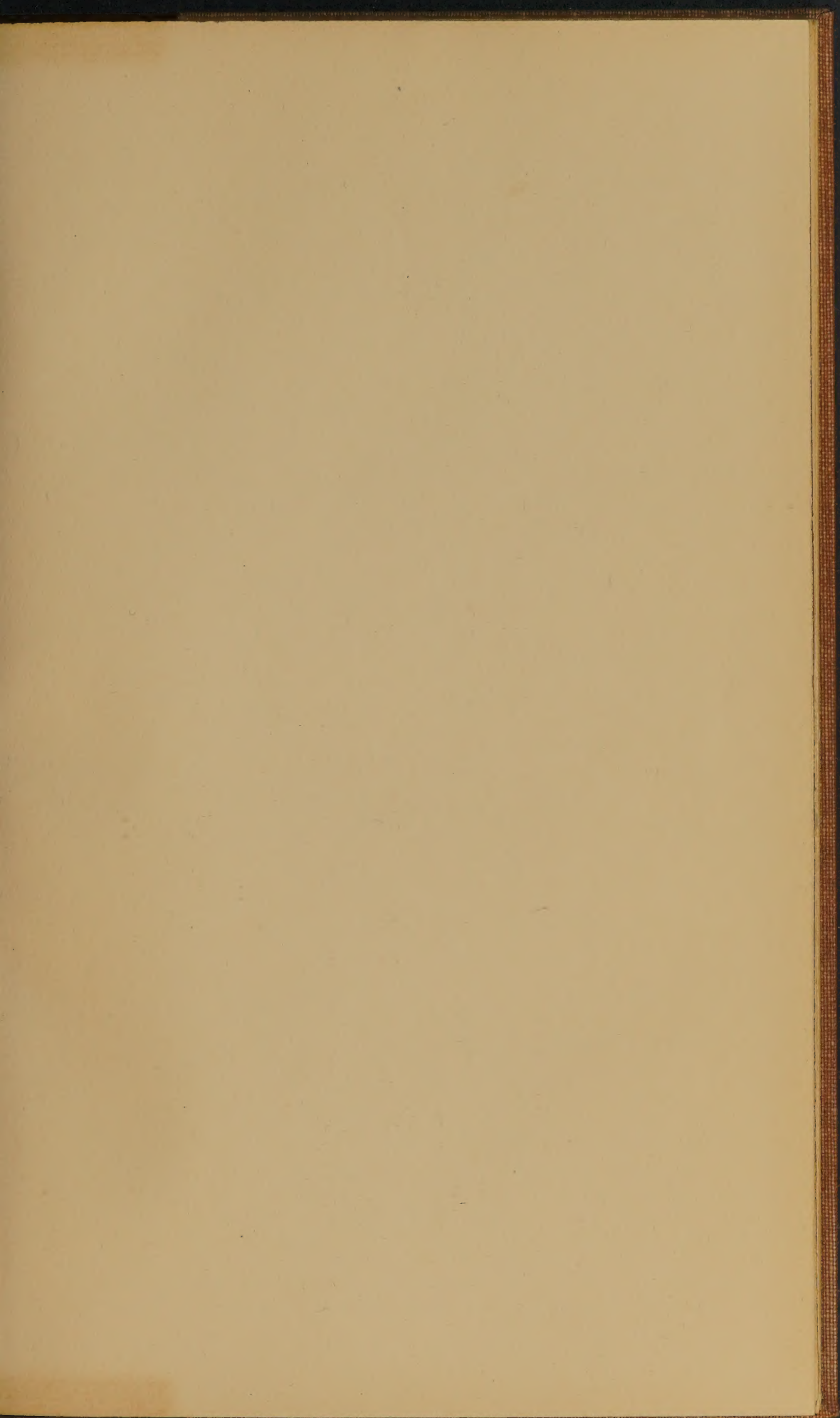


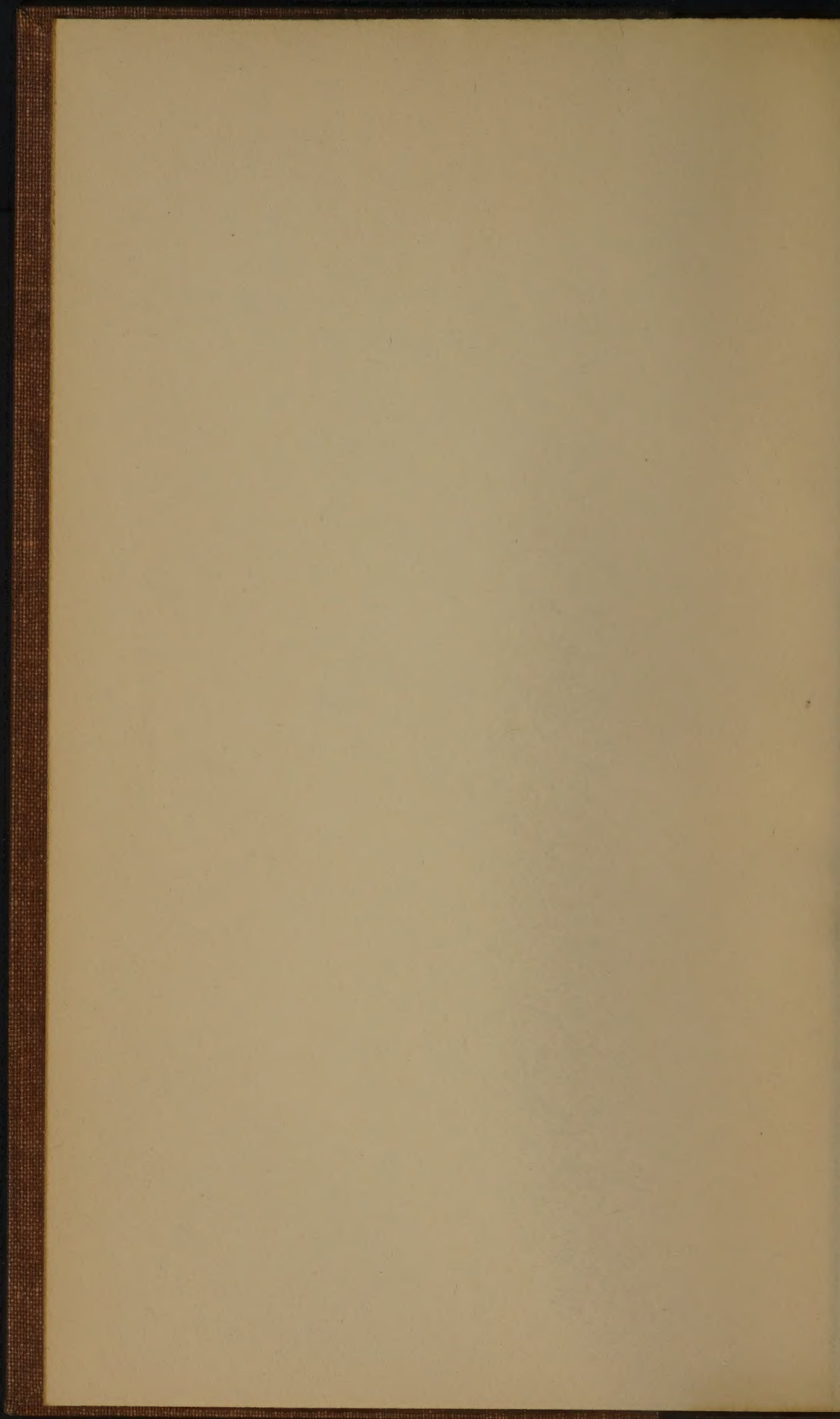






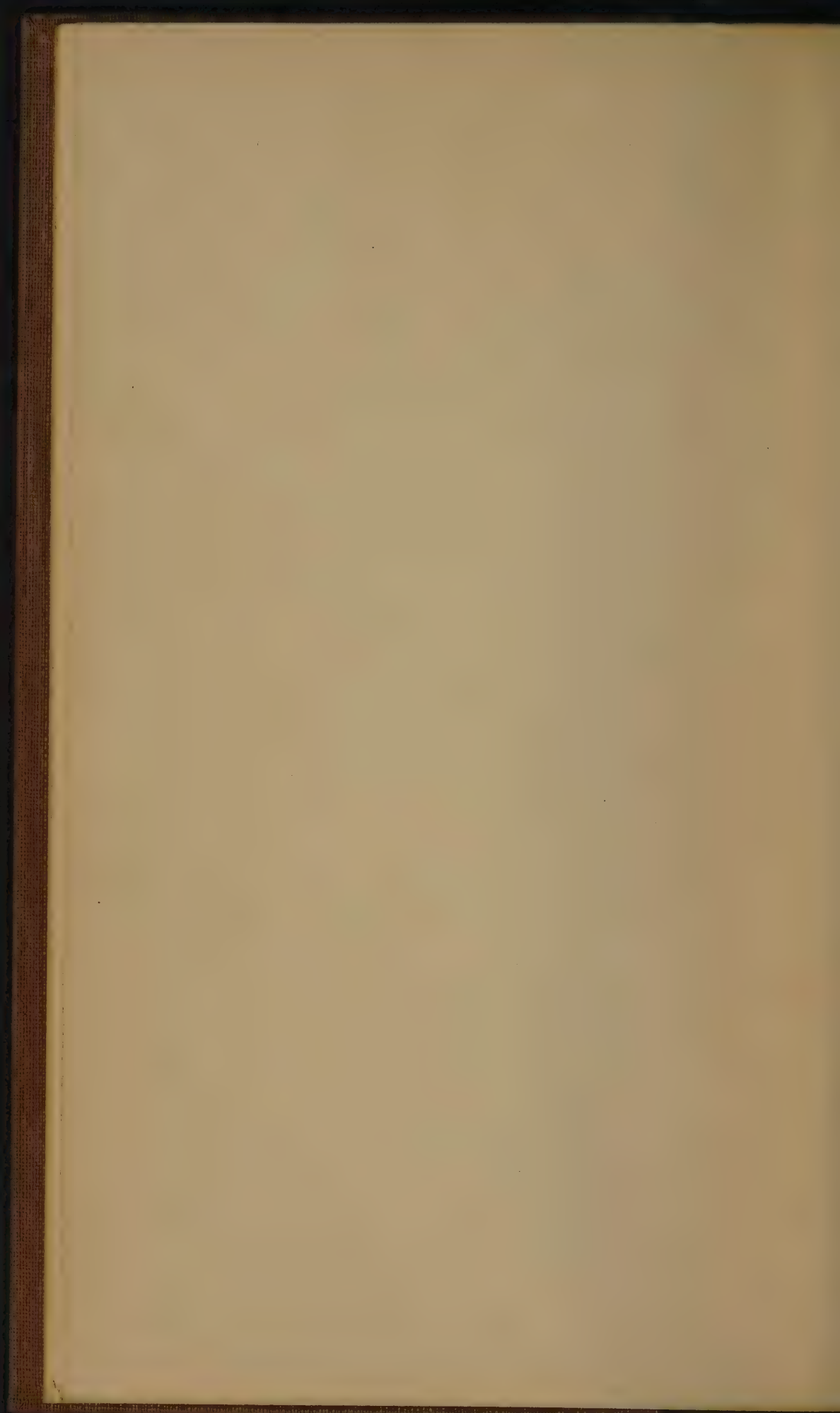














# **SUMMARY**

OF THE

PUBLIC EXERCISES AND HONORS

AT THE

## **INTERMENT**

OF THE HONORABLE

**CÆSAR A. RODNEY,**

MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNI-

TED STATES OF AMERICA.

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BUENOS AYRES:  
PRINTED BY STEPHEN HALLET,

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1824.

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## ADVERTISEMENT.

*As a tribute of respect to the memory of a useful and distinguished citizen, and from a wish to offer some feeble consolation, if possible, to his worthy and afflicted family, as well as to gratify friends and acquaintance abroad, the particulars of the correspondence, public acts and honors, and other circumstances in relation to the interment of the Honorable Mr. Rodney, together with the substance of the eulogy pronounced at his grave, have been collected and committed to the press. The high estimation in which the deceased was held by this people, as well as by his own country, on account of his public services and private virtues, renders, it is presumed, any further apology for this publication unnecessary.*

*Buenos Ayres, June, 1824.*





## SUMMARY, &c.

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LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES, }  
*Buenos Ayres, 10th June, 1824.* }

It has become the truly distressing duty of the undersigned, to announce to the Honorable Mr. Manuel José Garcia, Secretary of Government and of Foreign Relations, the sudden death of the Honorable CÆSAR AUGUSTUS RODNEY, Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States of America, near this Government, who departed this life at six o'clock this morning.

The humble testimony of the undersigned, to the virtues of this truly good man, is wholly unworthy of one who was above all praise. By nature sincere and cordial, the lamented Mr. Rodney was the real philanthropist, the devoted patriot and friend—the most zealous, enthusiastic and powerful advocate of the independence and prosperity of South America, especially of the provinces of La Plata, for which his interest was much increased by long and renewed intercourse.

The undersigned has the honor to renew to the Honorable Mr. Secretary of Foreign Relations, the assurances of his most distinguished consideration and respect.

JOHN M. FORBES,  
*Secretary of Legation.*

Hon. MANUEL JOSE GARCIA,  
*Secretary of Foreign Relations.*

## [TRANSLATION.]

BUENOS AYRES, 10th June, 1824.

The Minister Secretary of Foreign Relations, in the name of his Government, and his own, has the honor to address himself to Mr. John M. Forbes, Secretary of Legation of the United States, manifesting, in reply to his note of this day, that he has received the news of the death of Mr. Cæsar A. Rodney, Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States, as an event the most lamentable which could have befallen a country, interested by so many motives in the preservation of the existence of a person so distinguished, and so worthy its particular friendship; and trusting that Mr. Secretary will do him the honor to transmit these sentiments to the knowledge of his Government, permits himself to recommend him to do the same with the enclosed Decrees, which have been issued in testimony of the gratitude in which is preserved the memory of the said distinguished citizen. In the mean time the Minister, agitated with the deepest grief, sympathizes in sentiment with Mr. Secretary of Legation.

[Signed] MANUEL J. GARCIA.

Mr. JOHN M. FORBES, *Secretary of Legation.*

## FIRST DECREE.

BUENOS AYRES, 10th June, 1824.

The death of Mr. Cæsar A. Rodney, Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States, has produced in the minds of the Government of Buenos Ayres, all that feeling which the loss, for his country, of so distinguished a citizen, and for all America, of a zealous defender of her rights, more especially attached to the provinces of La Plata, is calculated to inspire.—In pursuance of which, the Government, desirous to give a public testimony of that feeling, and of the gratitude with which it is preserved, have granted and decreed—

*First,* A Sepulchral Monument at the expense of the Government, shall be raised over the remains of the Honorable Cæsar A. Rodney, as a memorial of gratitude.



*Second*, The expenses of the monument shall be defrayed out of the funds destined to the discretionary expenses of the Government.

*Third*, Let the orders which the accomplishment of this decree requires, be given, and inserted in the Official Register.

(Signed) HERAS.

(Signed) MANUEL J. GARCIA.

A true copy. (Signed) IGNACIO NUNES.

## SECOND DECREE.

The government being informed, by a note passed this day by Mr. Secretary of Legation of the United States, of the death of Mr. Cæsar A. Rodney, first Minister Plenipotentiary of that Republic, near this state, have granted and decreed—

*First*, In the funeral rites observed towards so distinguished a citizen, the following honors shall be executed : A battalion of infantry with four pieces of light artillery shall be stationed at the place where the body is to be buried. As the corpse leaves the house of his decease, the Fort shall fire a national salute. Another similar salute shall be executed by the light artillery on the entry of the corpse into the Cemetery. On putting it into the grave, the battalion, being formed, shall fire a general discharge.

*Secondly*, By the department of Foreign Relations, the general staff of the army and the chiefs of all the departments shall be invited to meet at the House of the Government to accompany the Ministers during the said funeral rites.

*Thirdly*, This decree shall be transcribed to whom it appertains, and shall be inserted in the Official Register.

(Signed) HERAS.

(Signed) MANUEL J. GARCIA.

A true copy. (Signed) IGNACIO NUNES.

## LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES, {

*Buenos Ayres, 10th June, 1824.* }

The citizens of the United States of America, now in Buenos Ayres, are respectfully requested to meet at Mrs. Thorne's Hotel, to-morrow, at 12 o'clock, to concert proper measures to testify their respect for the virtues of the distinguished philanthropist and patriot, and frank and sincere friend, who has just departed this life, the Hon. Cæsar Augustus Rodney, Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States.

JOHN M. FORBES,  
*Secretary of Legation.*

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At a very numerous meeting of the citizens of the United States, held at Mrs. Thorne's Hotel, on Friday evening, 11th of June instant, for the purpose of taking into consideration the adoption of proper means to testify their respect for the virtues and memory of the deceased Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States, Hon. Cæsar A. Rodney, Mr. Forbes was called to the Chair, and Mr. Dana appointed Secretary.

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted :

1st. *Resolved*, That as a testimony of our respect for the memory of our deceased fellow citizen, Cæsar A. Rodney, Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States to the Republic of Buenos Ayres, who was alike eminently distinguished for his public services and private virtues, we will wear crape on the left arm at the funeral to-morrow, and for thirty days next succeeding.

2d. *Resolved*, That a committee of five persons be named by the Chairman, to address a letter to the widow and family of the late Minister of the United States, expressing the sincere grief felt by the meeting for their afflicting loss, enclosing, at the same time, a copy of these proceedings.

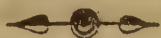
3d. *Resolved*, That the preamble and first and second



resolutions of this meeting shall be signed by the Chairman and Secretary, and published, in two languages, in the Mercantile Gazette, and Argos, of this city.

JOHN M. FORBES, *Chairman.*

WILLIAM DANA, *Secretary.*



*Translation from "El Argos de Buenos Ayres," a semi-official paper.*

FUNERAL OF THE HON. CÆSAR A. RODNEY, MINISTER PLENI-  
POTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES..

*Buenos Ayres, June 12th, 1824.*

At the invitation of Mr. Forbes, Secretary of Legation of the United States, and of the family of Mr. Rodney, a numerous collection, as well of foreigners as of natives, assembled in the morning at the house of the deceased. At half past 10 o'clock, the Minister of State, accompanied by the heads of the Civil Department and Military Staff, also attended. At a quarter before 11, the religious ceremonies of the Protestant Church, usual in such cases, were performed.\*—This act being concluded, at half past 11 the

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\* The religious exercises were conducted by our countryman, the Rev. Mr. Brigham, in a feeling and appropriate manner. He commenced by reading from the Scriptures the 90th Psalm, and then observed, that "it might be expected that he should on this occasion address the audience, and exhibit something of the life and virtues of the deceased; but as it had been intimated that an address to that effect would be delivered at the grave, and by one whom he knew to be pre-eminently qualified for such a performance, he should himself say nothing, as it might be an improper anticipation; and he would merely invite the assembly to unite with him in imploring the divine blessing."

Mr. B. was solicited for a copy of the prayer offered on that solemn occasion, to be inserted in this pamphlet; but as it was delivered extempore, and could be recalled only in substance, and as the publication of such an exercise is not common, he chose to decline a compliance with the solicitation; expressing, at the same time, his earnest

corpe was conducted by six North Americans to the hearse, which was richly and appropriately decorated with black plumes, &c. A national salute was then fired from the Fort, as ordered by the Government. The procession, (which consisted of a great number of carriages, besides those who walked, extended nearly half a mile, not including the escort of Husars, by which the whole was closed,) proceeded through University, Plata and Peru streets, to the Protestant Burying Ground, situated by the side of the Parish Church of Succour. The streets were filled with people of all classes, joining in the general mourning, caused by the death of so respectable a character. At the square of the *Retiro*, (a short distance from the Burying Ground,) those in carriages alighted, and forming into a body with those who had walked, moved slowly on towards the Cemetery.

On entering with the body into the Cemetery, the Flying Artillery, attached to the battalion of Infantry, commenced firing the second national salute, which continued until the body was placed in the grave. The most profound silence now prevailed, when Señor Don Bernardino Rivadavia (accompanied by the Hon. J. M. Forbes) took a situation near the grave, and pronounced a most feeling and eloquent address, before one of the most respectable and numerous assemblages of people ever known in this

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desire that the other proceedings relating to the funeral, with the address of the Ex-Minister, should be published.

In addition to the Civil Authorities who attended, it was peculiarly pleasing to all the Protestants to observe the public respect shown by the attendance of the Head of the Church and many of the most distinguished Catholic Clergymen, the Rector of the University &c. proclaiming, in the most unequivocal manner, the increasing liberality of this Catholic people. They had before kindly granted the Protestants the privilege of a Burying Ground, and on this occasion they attended with the greatest respect to all the exercises of the funeral, and mingled their sympathies with ours in the loss of our lamented Minister. Their high-minded example in this instance, is at once indicative of the elevation and nobleness of their character, and worthy the imitation of Christians of every name and country.



country. We could not, at this moment, get sufficiently near the orator to enable us to retain the multitude of ideas which shone forth throughout his discourse. We will, however, endeavour to give a sketch of it, as it is of much importance to this country, and will justify the interest which has been manifested in performing, as nearly as possible, those ceremonies which, in the United States, would have been consecrated to the memory of so respectable a citizen: neither have we been able to obtain from the orator a copy of his address, as it was the production of the moment. It would be difficult, therefore, to impart to paper the force of expression and animated style with which he has always awakened the admiration and enthusiasm of his hearers.

We give the following introduction, as near as we can recollect, regretting that we cannot use the same eloquent language in which the original was given :

#### ADDRESS.

“ Oh! with what eloquence do these venerable remains inspire my soul! Gentlemen, had we even belonged to one of those nations who have existed many centuries, and whose history furnishes us with a long series of great events and eminent men, still it would be impossible to resist the force of the sensations excited by this mournful and highly interesting event. But when this scene is presented for the first time in our country, and in the epoch of the commencement of our history, and operates to fix the basis of our social organization, what circumstance is there, of the many that occur, that may not produce a multitude of ideas, rivalling among themselves for the preference in exciting our feeling? Such, at least, is the situation in which I find myself, and in which I consider you; and the animated expression of your countenances, assuring me that your sentiments accord with mine, removes all restraint, and stimulates me to proceed. Expect not, however, to hear from me any personal enco-

triums in speaking of the exemplary life of him whose lamentable death has assembled us here. The illustrious man who has so honorably fulfilled the duties of his existence, lived not for himself, but for *his family, his country, and his fellow-men.*"

The orator then proceeded to consider separately the above points, and divided his discourse into three parts. In regard to the first he said—

The Honorable Cæsar Augustus Rodney was the son of Col. Thomas Rodney, one of those brave officers who fearlessly placed themselves among the leaders of the first armies raised in America, to assert her independence. He was the nephew of Cæsar Rodney, one of those undaunted men who, sacrificing a large fortune, and rising above all those reverses which his country suffered, (many examples of which we have had in ours,) had the noble firmness to seal with his name that document which so highly honors that country, and from which is dated the liberty of America, and perhaps also of the human race.

Following these noble examples, the subject of these remarks had scarcely arrived at the age of 22 years, ere he was elected a Representative to the Legislature of his native state, (Delaware.) From that time he manifested those virtues which were to distinguish him as a public man. Well knowing that the destiny to which he was called by his country could not be honorably fulfilled without devoting himself entirely to its duties, and that at the age when the tender affections inflamed the heart with so much force, it was necessary that he should bind himself by the strongest ties to society. He married, and having been until then the model of sons, he now became that of husbands; and as he had been a dutiful child, he was also a good father."

The orator then proceeded to show, that the moral virtues which had distinguished this illustrious individual, could not fail to merit the esteem of all his countrymen, and consequently he was elected a member of the National Legislature, in which capacity he proved the love



of country by which he was actuated, the moderation by which he was distinguished, and the social virtues which adorned his character.

Here the orator called the attention of the audience more particularly to the relation and influence which that, he was about to demonstrate, had upon our country. He observed, therefore, that, "entrusted with the distinguished office of Representative of the Nation, at a time when, in his native state, the giddiness of passion scarcely gave place to reason, and in which the parties contended on points closely affecting the interest of their country, he was struck with the conviction, that the sacred duty of a Representative is, in representing the people, to enlighten them—that, in virtue thereof, he manifested a character of moderation, without any pretensions to brilliancy, and always avoiding any thing personal, he thus followed the path which justly led to the general welfare; using the spirit of conciliation, with which he was highly gifted by nature, and profiting by the opinions and zeal of both parties, he always knew how to obtain a result which would be useful to the general interests of the nation. In this manner he became the natural magistrate of his country. By such conduct he made himself worthy of the consideration of his government and was appointed to serve in the Cabinet, where he discharged the important duties of Attorney General of the United States. He was a member, gentlemen, (said the orator) of that cabinet who, by their wisdom and acts, deserve to bear the name of the distinguished citizen, whose incontestible merit having exhausted all the epithets of eulogium and all the idioms of applause, has given to its name the singular value of being the definition of the hero of liberty and civilization—WASHINGTON. That it was in this situation where he manifested such profound knowledge, and that, exercising justice, he enlightened the character of humanity which distinguished him in all his actions; that he remained in this situation four years, and knowing that he could not render his country all the service he

wished, he voluntarily relinquished his charge: he relinquished it, gentlemen, (added the orator) for the same reason which induced him to accept of it—the general good. He returned to the national representation to await an opportunity of distinguishing himself for the love of his *fellow-men*. The orator then proceeded to state the *circumstances* in which our cause was placed. They could not be looked upon with indifference by the government of a country whose principles were identified with those which had engaged us in so glorious an undertaking. But to proceed to the recognition of our independence with due circumspection, and which our own interests demanded, it was necessary to have a practical knowledge of our real condition. To this effect a Commission was named; among the individuals who composed it, the distinguished citizen whose death we lament was one. The orator then related the circumstances under which the Commissioners reached our shores. And you, (said he) gentlemen, have seen the reports which were individually presented by the members of that Commission, and must have observed the marked difference which appeared in that of the illustrious person deceased. He very well knew (he added) the events which had preceded our revolution, and to obtain the proposed object of his government, it was important to ascertain whether the country was in a situation to hold the rank to which it aspired. He could not say any thing, gentlemen, favourable to the state of our illustration, but he made a profound observation, which proved sufficiently the philosophical talents he possessed; he observed, and informed his government, that when our peasantry came to the city they eagerly sought for public newspapers, and not knowing how to read, solicited some one to read for them, and from this he inferred the disposition which this country had for social improvement, and, in so far, to secure its independence and liberty. The orator then observed, that this philosophical observation was that which gained the consideration of that government, and that which certain-



ly prepared the act of justice which it has done us in acknowledging our independence ; that when that government was preparing for this act, this illustrious citizen, animated by the love he bore his *fellow-men*, used every effort in his power that it might be realized as soon as possible ; and notwithstanding the bad state of his health, and regardless of the dangers of the seas, he cheerfully offered to revisit us to satisfy in this way his feelings, and to be the first to render such an homage to the sovereignty of this country. The orator then reminded us that the second time he visited our shores invested with the public character of Minister Plenipotentiary,—he returned to testify to us his sentiments for the good of humanity, and the distinction with which he beheld our soil, and that the last time he spoke in public it was only to extol us, and to show how much he loved us ; so much so that he wished to be counted as one of our citizens, and finally to manifest his wishes for the reorganization of the National Congress, which would give to this country all the respectability and importance which it deserves. He was filled with these sentiments (said the orator) when death called him from us. He has died—but he will live eternally in the hearts of every American. His death will be lamented as a great loss to his country, and a still greater one to ours, which is so much in want of his example of virtue, his council, and his talents ; and we cannot give a more positive testimony of the esteem we owe him, than by imitating his virtues, having lived only for his *family*, his *country*, and his *fellow-men*. Thus die the just, (he added) and behold how bright appear the virtues of an *honest man*, and dignified *citizen*.

The orator continued in demonstrating that, always just without ambition, he had not left to his family a large fortune, except a legacy of virtues, and a name that will be respected by all those who knew him, from pole to pole ; that in the service of his country he had given ample proof how much he loved it, and promoted its glory and prosperity ; that mankind could recognize in him one

of their best friends, and that his name, filling the present generation with enthusiasm, will be handed down to those who succeed us, with all the traits of character which so truly distinguish the heroes of our age, and more particularly an American hero, that is, *simple, useful, and benevolent*, and certainly not like those who are called heroes, and who may be compared with the force of a torrent, which, carrying away every thing before it, have caused as many misfortunes and evils to the human race as they have gained glory. The orator, full of enthusiasm, and deeply affected with the sentiments which filled his soul, exclaimed—"Illustrious soul of Cæsar Augustus Rodney! return to the bosom of thy creator with the elevation and confidence to which you are entitled! being his image here on earth, separate not thy compassionate regard from this country, which is so highly honoured in preserving your remains; yes, we will preserve them as the most precious treasure that this soil can receive."

The orator, (taking some earth in his hand,) then said—"And thou earth! that art going to cover these venerable remains! receive also the honor of being mingled with the most fruitful seeds of virtue! and cause it to produce similar heroes that may immortalize the American name!"

This address concluded, the battalion fired a general salute. The company then returned to the house of the deceased, according to custom.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES, }  
Buenos Ayres, 14th June, 1824. }

The undersigned, Secretary of Legation of the United States of America, approaches the Supreme Government of Buenos Ayres with a heart so full of grief and gratitude, as to defy and baffle any attempt at appropriate expression.

In paying public honors to a virtuous citizen—to a patriot without reproach, who so much loved his country as to give his whole life to her service, we shed on such a life that bright radiance of glory which encourages imitation and enriches the great stock of public virtue;



but the distinguished marks of respect lately shown to the memory of the deceased Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States, the Hon. Cæsar A. Rodney, most emphatically proclaim, as well that high degree of illustration which so eminently characterizes the Supreme Government of Buenos Ayres, as those spontaneous and generous sentiments of sympathy and benevolence among the favoured sons of La Plata, which are naturally inspired by their happy and hospitable clime. The undersigned can only assure the Supreme Government of Buenos Ayres, that all his fellow citizens now here most sincerely partake of the warm sense of gratitude felt by him, and that both the government and people of the United States will duly appreciate the splendid evidences lately given of respect for the virtues of their deceased fellow-citizen, whom they have ever delighted to honor.

The undersigned begs leave to offer to the Hon. Mr. Manuel J. Garcia, Minister of Government and of Foreign Relations, his most cordial thanks for the sympathy he has manifested towards him on the late distressing event, and the renewed assurances of his most distinguished consideration and respect.

JOHN M. FORBES.

Hon. MANUEL J. GARCIA,

*Minister of Government and of Foreign Relations.*

*Letter of Condolence to the Widow and family of the  
Hon. Cæsar A. Rodney, deceased.*

BEREAVED FRIENDS—

The undersigned, in behalf of the citizens of the United States now in Buenos Ayres, take this method of expressing to you their unfeigned sympathy in your late affliction, and also their sincere respect for the memory of him, whom a wise providence has removed from you.

We do not presume by this act, that we shall be able to restore an equivalent for your loss, or assuage in any great degree, the deep grief with which you are oppressed—this transcends the limits of our power, and is the prerogative of Him only, who hath access to our spirits and whom all events obey. Yet, if we can be so happy as to cast but the feeblest ray of consolation amidst that gloom which now envelops you, we shall to no small extent gratify our own feelings, and shall remember with pleasure this effort for your condolence.

We are not unmindful, respected friends, that your present bereave-

ment is attended with some peculiar aggravations. The loss of such a worthy companion, such a parent and counsellor, under any circumstances, would have been painful: It is peculiarly so, placed as you are among strangers of another hemisphere, far from that circle of relatives and friends, amidst whose smiles your life has hitherto been led, and who on an occasion like this, would have embraced you in their affectionate arms, and poured into your hearts such balm as we cannot hope to administer.

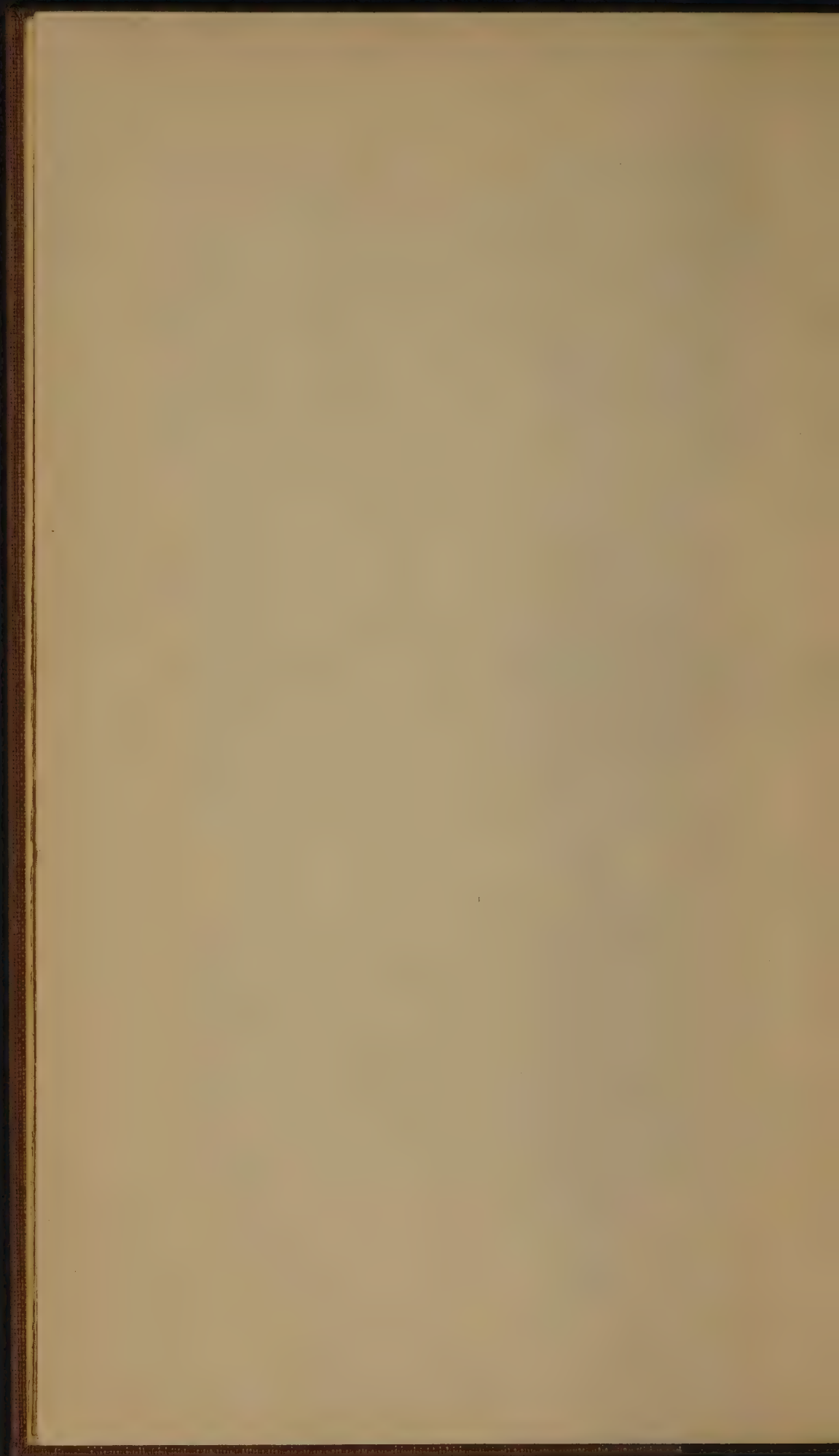
But while we remember that you are in a foreign land, we remember too, with gratitude, and would affectionately remind you, that you are not in a *land of enemies*. In addition to the little circle of friends whom your own virtues and friendship have drawn around you, and who would count no sacrifice dear which could contribute to your welfare, you have also the consolation of reflecting, that you enjoy among this grateful people, a thousand sympathies attracted by the greatness and goodness of the deceased. And while you may continue in this country, when you are returning over a wide ocean to the land of your nativity, and long, long we trust afterward, you will remember with pleasing emotions the marked respect and affections of this people to the departed head of your family, and will be assured that a part of those same affections will be cherished towards his bereaved partner and offspring. And when you shall again reach the shores of our own beloved country, you will receive the best wishes of thousands who will remember the numerous services, the public and private virtues, of him whose remains you leave on the banks of La Plata—this place, once so dear to the heart of your departed friend.

It has been said by a great and good man, that the best legacy which can be bequeathed to a child, is a *father's good name*. If this sentiment is founded in truth, you, dear friends, have indeed a rich and secure inheritance. In whatever part of the world our Great Preserver may cast your lot, you will be sure to receive the smiles and benedictions of all who had learned the worth of him for whom you are now called to mourn. Yes, unless this people and our own shall sink back into a degrading vassalage, and freedom take her flight from these western shores, which event we trust, in the strong terms of the deceased, *God and Nature have decreed against*, you will often find that you are beloved for the sake of him who spent his life in extending the empire and the blessings of liberty.

In closing this memorial of our regards, we would also suggest for your encouragement the promise of Him who is more than man, *that the widow and the fatherless shall not be forgotten*. To the numerous consolations of His word we would direct you in this hour of affliction: to Him would commend you in all your ways, praying that He would smile on your path and direct all your steps, to the grave, and through the riches of his grace, bring you in his own time to that world where trials never come, and where you will no more be separated from those you love.

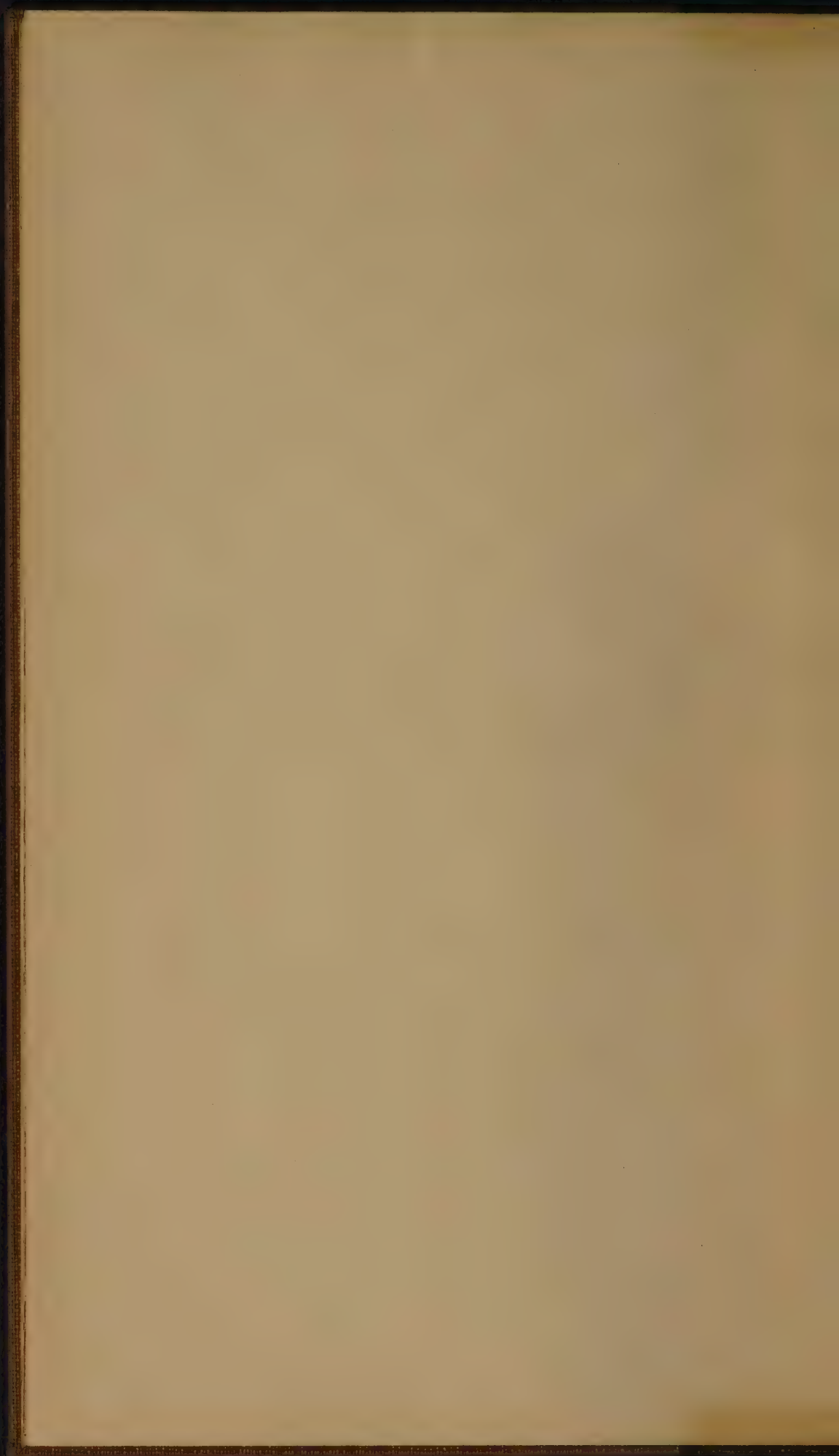








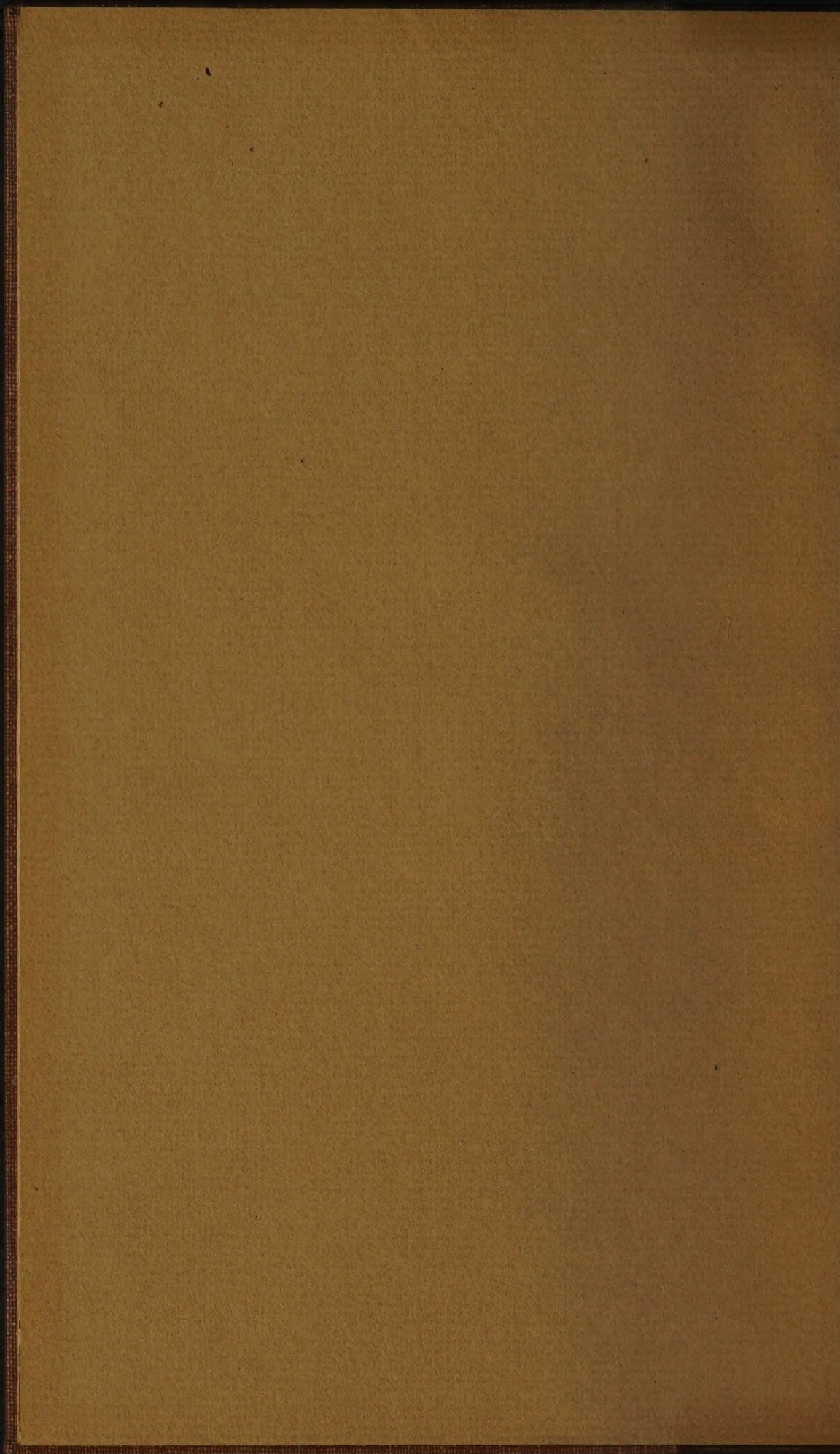














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